

Immigrants and health care coverage



This fact sheet will help you understand your options. It does not imply endorsement of any option by the Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisor (SHIBA) HelpLine or by the Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

If you are a United States (U.S.) immigrant and you are in need of health care, there are several health care coverage programs available. Depending on your immigration status, you may qualify for one or more programs. Contact the individual program or health insurance plan for a complete description of the application process and for immigration status requirements.

Immigration status

Qualified immigrants, living in the U.S. five years or more

- All immigrants, who entered the U.S. before August 22, 1996, and remained continuously present in the country before becoming a qualified alien
- Refugees/asylees
- Victims of trafficking
- Aliens whose deportations are being withheld by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
- Amerasian immigrants
- Cuban/Haitian entrants
- Lawful permanent residents who are on active U.S. military duty or a U.S. veteran, and/or their children and spouses
- Any child under age 18 who is a lawful permanent resident and resides in legal and physical custody of a U.S. citizen parent
- Native Americans with at least 50 percent American Indian blood who were born in Canada

Qualified immigrants, living in the U.S. less than five years

- Lawful permanent residents (green card holder)
- Abused spouses or children, parents of abused children, or children of abused spouses with a proof of immigration status
- Aliens paroled into the U.S. for at least one year
- Aliens granted conditional entry (prior to April 1, 1980)
- Immigrants who have lived in the U.S. for less than five years (also called the 5 year bar) may not be eligible for all programs

Nonqualified and/or undocumented aliens

- People who enter the U.S. without inspection at the border or who were lawfully admitted but lost their status
- A non-qualified alien who permanently or indefinitely resides in the U.S., and the USCIS has not started the deportation process. The U.S. government considers aliens applying for political asylum or withholding of deportation who have not yet received a final order, as Permanently Residing Under Color of Law (PRUCOL)
- Students
- Tourists
- Employment only authorized (people authorized by USCIS to work for a specific employer)
- Temporary residents

Know your rights to get health care

- You have the right to ask for an interpreter or bring someone to interpret for you.
- You have the right to receive treatment and services without discrimination based on national origin, race, color, sex, or disability.

For more information about other health care coverage options, read the Consumer's Guide to Health Care Coverage at http://www.insurance.wa.gov/publications/health/Consumers_Guide_Health_Care.pdf. For more information about the federal poverty level, visit http://www.insurance.wa.gov/publications/consumer/FINAL_FPL_chart.pdf. To request copies, please call the Insurance Consumer Hotline at 1-800-562-6900.



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Immigrant status requirements for health care coverage programs

	Qualified immigrant	Qualified immigrant, 5 year bar	Non-qualified immigrant	
Alien Emergency Medical (AEM)	●	●	●	Department of Social and Health Services at 1-800-865-7801, www.dshs.wa.gov
Pregnancy Medical	●	●	●	
Basic Health	●	●	●	1-800-660-9840 or www.basichealth.hca.wa.gov
Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Coverage	●	●	●	Local Health Department or 1-888-551-3994
Community Health Clinics	●	●	●	Association of Community and Migrant Health Centers at 360-786-9722 or www.bphc.hrsa.gov
Hospital Charity Care	●	●	●	Individual hospitals
Washington State Health Insurance Pool (WSHIP)	●	●	●	1-800-877-5187 or www.wship.org
Medicare	●	◆ Only for End Stage Renal Disease	◆ Only for End Stage Renal Disease	Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 or, if you get benefits from the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB), call 1-800-808-0772
Employment-based Insurance	●	◆	◆	Your employer
Indian Health Services (IHS)	●	◆	◆	503-326-2020 or contact your local tribe/clinic
Commercial Health Plans	●	◆	◆	Independent insurance agents or insurance companies
Small Business Group Health Insurance	●	◆	◆	
Military Insurance	●	◆		1-888-TRIWEST (1-888-874-9378) or www.tricare.osd.mil
Veterans' Affairs	●	◆		VA Health Benefits Service Center at 1-877-222-VETS
The Children's Health Program (CHP)		●	●	Department of Social and Health Services at 1-877-KIDS-NOW (1-877-543-7669)
Children's Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)	●	■	■	
General Assistance Unemployable (GAU)	●	■	■	Department of Social and Health Services at 1-800-865-7801, www.dshs.wa.gov
Health Care for Workers with Disabilities	●	■	■	
Medicaid	●	■	■	Medical Assistance HelpLine at 1-800-562-3022. or visit https://www2.wa.gov/dshs/onlinecso/findservice.asp
Medicare Savings Programs	●	■	■	
Take Charge	●	■	■	Family Planning Hotline, Department of Social and Health Services, at 1-800-770-4334

● – You may qualify for this program

◆ – Call the program for details

■ – You may not qualify for this program